

NSA Scandal 'Terrifying'

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CPYRGHT

Returning from an NSA meeting in Washington, D.C., Dan McIntosh, ASUC president, described CIA involvement in the affairs of the National Student Association as "terrifying."

"It's idiotic to say that CIA involvement in NSA is not important," McIntosh blasted. "It is terrifying to know that the CIA duped students and used them as spies."

McIntosh was in Washington, D.C., Thursday through Saturday last week, attending meetings of the National Supervisory Board of NSA. The meetings were held to discuss the CIA involvement in NSA.

McIntosh is one of 10 members of the Supervisory Board. All the members are students elected to one year terms at the NSA summer congress.

According to McIntosh, NSA has been trying to sever financial ties with the CIA ever since Phil Sherburne was elected president of NSA in 1965. He and other NSA staff members have made appeals to the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Office of Education, and various private foundations for funds.

"When Sherburne took office, the CIA was paying 50 per cent of NSA's budget. When he left office last summer, they were paying only 5 per cent," McIntosh asserted. "And by the end of this year, NSA was to be financially independent of the CIA," he added.

The CIA has made no official statement about the whole affair. "But their pressure is felt," McIntosh declared.

"The CIA is furious. They wanted NSA to deny the whole thing," he continued. "They're especially mad because NSA is saying they were duped by the CIA, and that

most of them didn't know they were receiving CIA funds."

"Sherburne is really in trouble," McIntosh declared. "Even now he can still be prosecuted for disclosing information vital to the national security."

"He had to be careful even at the meeting. For all we knew, NSA headquarters may have been bugged," he stated.

However, the CIA disclosed yesterday that it will not prosecute NSA members for revealing information about the financial involvement of the CIA in the organization.

"The CIA paid up to 80 per cent of the NSA budget in some years," McIntosh stated.

The involvement started in the 1950's. "At first no one in NSA was aware of CIA funds," he explained. "But some people who had worked for NSA went into the CIA. Maybe they [former NSA members in the CIA] told the people in NSA."

The amount of CIA aid increased as NSA began expanding its international program and needed more money. No CIA funds were ever specifically allocated for domestic programs. But McIntosh acknowledged that some CIA money may have accidentally been spent for domestic programs.

If there was a deficit in the NSA budget at the end of the year, CIA funds would be used to eliminate the deficit. "Sometimes domestic programs might be included in that deficit, so inadvertently the CIA might have given money to national programs," McIntosh said.

In exchange for its money, the CIA received from NSA's international staff reports on student conferences, analyses of the political situation of student politics, and personality assessments of foreign student leaders.



DAN MCINTOSH
"Terrifying"

According to McIntosh, only a few NSA staff members each year knew about the CIA money. At the beginning of their terms of office they were told that they would be dealing with information vital to the national security. They were asked to sign an oath, promising never to divulge that information.

Once they signed the oath, they were trapped. If they said anything about CIA funds, they could be prosecuted under the National Security Act.

In addition to discussing the nature of CIA involvement in NSA, the Supervisory Board discussed future plans.

"The international program is dead," McIntosh flatly stated. "The credibility of US students abroad is greatly damaged. But the national program will be con-

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McIntosh Speaks on NSA After Washington Meeting

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tinued."
"Presently we're [NSA] running with a \$35,000 deficit," McIntosh stated. "We decided at the meeting that the most important thing NSA could do now was to serve as an example to other

groups who are also receiving CIA funds."

"If NSA can break their financial relationship with the CIA and still not go under, then these other organizations might see that they can break their relationship with the CIA," he said.